What is claimed is:

sub B'

1. A method of bending a sheet of glass heated nearly to a softening point thereof with a suction mold including a plurality of divided suction chambers having respective shaping surface areas, comprising the step of:

developing vacuums in selected ones of the suction chambers at different times to attract the sheet of glass successively against the shaping surface areas thereof for thereby bending the sheet of glass complementarily to the shaping surface areas.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said suction chambers include a central suction chamber having a flat shaping surface area and a pair of opposite side suction chambers disposed one on each side of said central suction chamber and having respective curved shaping surface areas, said step of developing vacuums comprising the steps of:

developing a vacuum in said central suction chamber to attract a central area of the sheet of glass against the flat shaping surface area thereof; and

thereafter, developing a vacuum in said opposite side suction chambers to attract opposite side areas of the sheet of glass respectively against the curved shaping surface areas.

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3. A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said

step of developing vacuums comprises the step of developing different vacuums in the suction chambers.

sub B2 4. A method of shaping a sheet of glass heated nearly to a softening point thereof with the shaping surface areas of a plurality of divided suction chambers defined in a suction mold, the shaping surface areas having suction holes defined therein, comprising the steps of:

introducing a vacuum into one of the suction chambers to attract an area of the sheet of glass against the shaping surface area of said one of the suction chambers through the suction holes thereof; and

thereafter, introducing a vacuum into another of the suction chambers to attract another area of the sheet of glass against the shaping surface area of said other of the suction chambers through the suction holes thereof.

add B3

add D3

add E2